

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/604,512 Confirmation No. 1511  
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.  
Filed : July 28, 2003  
T.C./A.U. : 1763  
Examiner : Ram N. Kackar  
Docket No. : 39.018-AG  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached documents listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

### **REMARKS**

All of the presently submitted foreign patent documents, i.e., Cite Nos. F1 through F7 as listed on the IDS List of References, are not in English.

Cite Nos. F1-F3 were cited in a communication, dated November 14, 2006, from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application, Pat. App. No. 2003-028959, the foreign patent application on the basis of which priority is claimed in the present application

Cite Nos. F4-F7 were cited in a communication, dated March 28, 2006, from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application.

The November 14, 2006 JPO communication cites (as did the March 28, 2006 JPO communication), Japanese Unexamined Pat. App. Pub. No. H08-078193. This reference was submitted in Applicants' October 11, 2005 IDS in the present

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application, and as such is cumulative to material already made of record and is not being submitted here.

**Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation**  
**Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

As a concise explanation of the relevance of Cite Nos. F1-F3, an English translation of the pertinent portion of the November 14, 2006 Japanese Patent Office communication is submitted herewith. (A copy of the JPO communication in its entirety follows the English translation.)

For a concise explanation of the relevance of Cite Nos. F4-F7, reference is made to the English rendering, already submitted in the present application with Applicants' IDS of June 22, 2006, of the March 28, 2006 communication in which Cite Nos. F4-F7 were cited by the Japanese Patent Office.

In addition, English abstracts of Cite Nos. F1 through F7 are available on the JPO website through Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ), and a copy of the corresponding abstract is attached to the back of each reference.

**FEE AS STIPULATED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

As the date on which the Japanese Patent Office communication citing Cite Nos. F4-F7 issued was March 28, 2006, an attestation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) with regard to these references cannot be made (notwithstanding that such an attestation could be made with regard to Cite Nos. F1-F3).

Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2), the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) is being submitted in an authorization, accompanying the EFS Web submission of this paper, to charge to a credit card the \$180 fee.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 19, 2006

/James Judge/

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